

Appl. No. 09/736,617
Amdt. dated March 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2004

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling access to a functional unit within a set top box, comprising:

receiving first information comprising a plurality of functional unit identifiers and one or more tier requirements respectively related to each functional unit identifier;

receiving second information comprising tier rights;

correlating the functional unit identifiers to their respective tier requirements;

interacting with the functional unit;

determining if the respective tier requirements are satisfied by the tier rights; **and**

authorizing further interaction with the functional unit; **and**

receiving third information that replaces the tier rights.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method for controlling access to the functional unit within the set top box of claim 1, wherein more than one of the tier rights could authorize further interaction with the functional unit ~~identifier~~.

4. (Original) The method for controlling access to the functional unit within the set top box of claim 1, authenticating a source of at least one of the first and second information.

Appl. No. 09/736,617

Amdt. dated March 22, 2005

Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2004

PATENT

5. (Original) The method for controlling access to the functional unit within the set top box of claim 1, wherein the functional unit comprises a discrete entity comprising at least one of software, hardware, drivers, firmware, data, video, and audio.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for controlling access to the functional unit within the set top box of claim 1, further comprising receiving a plurality of non-streaming content functional units.

7. (Original) The method for controlling access to the functional unit within the set top box of claim 1, wherein the set top box is integral with an enclosure for a display.

8. (Currently Amended) A conditional access system for controlling access to functional units, comprising:

a set top box;

a functional unit associated with the set top box;

a requirements message comprising a functional unit identifier and one or more tier requirements related to the functional unit identifier, wherein the functional unit identifier is associated with the functional unit;

a rights message comprising one or more tier rights;

an authentication function that authenticates a source of the rights and requirements messages; and

an authorization function that compares each of the one or more tier requirements against the one or more tier rights in order to authorize use of the functional unit.

9. (Canceled)

Appl. No. 09/736,617

Amdt. dated March 22, 2005

Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2004

PATENT

10. (Original) The conditional access system for controlling access to functional units of claim 8, further comprising a data channel between a headend and the set top box, wherein the data channel is one of bi-directional and omni-directional.

11. (Original) The conditional access system for controlling access to functional units of claim 8, further comprising a second rights message to replace the tier rights.

12. (Currently Amended) The conditional access system for controlling access to functional units of claim 8, further comprising a plurality of non-streaming content functional units sent from a headend to the set top box.

13. (Original) The conditional access system for controlling access to functional units of claim 8, wherein the functional unit comprises a discrete entity comprising at least one of software, hardware, drivers, firmware, data, video, and audio.

14. (Original) The conditional access system for controlling access to functional units of claim 8, wherein the set top box is integral to an enclosure for a display.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling access to remotely-located and functional units within a conditional access system, comprising:

determining first and second information to modify authorization of a remotely-located and functional unit;

sending the first information comprising a functional unit identifier and at least one tier requirement related to the functional unit identifier;

sending the second information comprising a tier right; ~~and~~

causing modification of an authorization state of the remotely located functional unit corresponding to the functional unit identifier;

sending third information comprising a replacement tier right; and

Appl. No. 09/736,617

Amdt. dated March 22, 2005

Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2004

PATENT

causing further modification of the authorization state of the remotely-located and functional unit corresponding to the functional unit identifier.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The method for controlling access to remotely-located and functional units within the conditional access system of claim 15, wherein the authorization state is one of authorized and unauthorized.

18. (Original) The method for controlling access to remotely-located and functional units within the conditional access system of claim 15, further comprising generating a signature over at least one of the first and second information.

19. (Original) The method for controlling access to remotely-located and functional units within the conditional access system of claim 15, wherein more than one tier right could authorize use of the remotely-located and functional unit corresponding to the functional unit identifier.

20. (Currently Amended) The method for controlling access to remotely-located and functional units within the conditional access system of claim 15, further comprising sending a plurality of non-streaming content functional units to a remote location.

21. (Original) The method for controlling access to remotely-located and functional units within the conditional access system of claim 15, wherein the remotely-located and functional unit comprises a discrete entity comprising at least one of software, hardware, drivers, firmware, data, video, and audio.